

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A non-naturally occurring BAFF-R (BAFF receptor) glycoprotein having a deletion in the extracellular domain which results in an altered O-linked glycosylation pattern, wherein the BAFF-R glycoprotein retains the ability to bind to BAFF (B-cell-activating factor of the TNF family).
2. (Original) The BAFF-R glycoprotein of claim 1, having at least one O-linked glycan.
3. (Original) The BAFF-R glycoprotein of claim 1, wherein the O-linked glycan is attached on an amino acid that corresponds to threonine 18 or threonine 41 of SEQ ID NO:1.
4. (Original) The BAFF-R glycoprotein of claim 1, wherein the O-linked glycan is attached on an amino acid which corresponds to threonine 18, threonine 41, or serine 8 of SEQ ID NO:1.
5. (Original) The BAFF-R glycoprotein of claim 1, wherein BAFF-R glycoprotein is human.
6. (Original) The BAFF-R glycoprotein of claim 5, wherein the deletion is from amino acid 50 to amino acid 56 of SEQ ID NO:1.
7. (Original) The BAFF-R glycoprotein of claim 5, wherein the deletion is from amino acid 50 to amino acid 63 of SEQ ID NO:1.
8. (Original) The BAFF-R glycoprotein of claim 5, wherein the deletion is from amino acid 50 to amino acid 72 of SEQ ID NO:1.

9. (Original) The BAFF-R glycoprotein of claim 1, which comprises a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence substantially identical to SEQ ID NO:1 from amino acid 13 to amino acid 43.

10. (Original) The BAFF-R glycoprotein of claim 1, which comprises a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence substantially identical to SEQ ID NO:1 from amino acid 14 to amino acid 43.

11. (Original) The BAFF-R glycoprotein of claim 5, having at least two amino acid substitutions, wherein the substituted amino acid corresponds to amino acid positions 21 and 28 of SEQ ID NO:1.

12. (Currently amended) The BAFF-R glycoprotein of claim 1, which comprises a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) from amino acid 13 to amino acid 43 amino acids 13 to 43 of SEQ ID NO:1;
- (b) from amino acid 14 to amino acid 43 amino acids 14 to 43 of SEQ ID NO:1;
- (c) from amino acid 1 to amino acid 49 amino acids 1 to 49 of SEQ ID NO:1;
- (d) from amino acid 13 to amino acid 49 amino acids 13 to 49 of SEQ ID NO:1;
- (e) from amino acid 14 to amino acid 49 amino acids 14 to 49 of SEQ ID NO:1;

or and

- (f) from amino acid 1 to amino acid 49 amino acids 1 to 49 of SEQ ID NO:7.

13. (Currently amended) The BAFF-R glycoprotein of claim 12, which ~~comprises comprising~~ a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence ~~as set out~~ from amino acid 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, or 19 of SEQ ID NO:1 and to amino acid 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, or 49 of SEQ ID NO:1.

14. (Currently amended) The BAFF-R glycoprotein of claim 12, wherein ~~an amino acid~~ the amino acid at position 21 of SEQ ID NO:1 is valine and ~~an amino acid~~ the amino acid at position 28 of SEQ ID NO:1 is leucine.

15. (Currently amended) The BAFF-R glycoprotein of claim 12, wherein ~~an amino acid~~ the amino acid at position 21 of SEQ ID NO:1 is asparagine and ~~an amino acid~~ the amino acid at position 28 of SEQ ID NO:1 is proline.

16. (Currently amended) The BAFF-R glycoprotein of claim 12, further comprising at least a portion of an immunoglobulin constant region, and optionally a linker joining the polypeptide to the portion of the immunoglobulin constant region, wherein the linker does not include ~~amino acid~~ amino acids 50 to 56 of SEQ ID NO:1.

17. (Original) The glycoprotein of claim 16, wherein the portion of the immunoglobulin is IgG1 or IgG4.

18. (Original) The glycoprotein of claim 17, wherein the portion of the immunoglobulin constant region comprises amino acids 3 to 227 of SEQ ID NO:4.

19. (Original) A nucleic acid encoding the BAFF-R glycoprotein of claim 1.

20. (Currently amended) The nucleic acid of claim 19, ~~comprising encoding at least~~ wherein the encoded BAFF-R glycoprotein comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) ~~amino acid 13 to amino acid 43~~ amino acids 13 to 43 of SEQ ID NO:1;
- (b) ~~amino acid 14 to amino acid 43~~ amino acids 14 to 43 of SEQ ID NO:1;
- (c) ~~amino acid 1 to amino acid 49~~ amino acids 1 to 49 of SEQ ID NO:1;
- (d) ~~amino acid 8 to amino acid 49~~ amino acids 8 to 49 of SEQ ID NO:1;
- (e) ~~amino acid 13 to amino acid 49~~ amino acids 13 to 49 of SEQ ID NO:1;

(f) ~~amino acid 14 to amino acid 49~~ amino acids 14 to 49 of SEQ ID NO:1; or

(g) ~~amino acid 1 to amino acid 49~~ amino acids 1 to 49 of SEQ ID NO:7.

21. (Original) The nucleic acid of claim 19, comprising nucleotides 1 to 216 of SEQ ID NO:2 or 3.

22. (Original) A vector comprising the nucleic acid of any one of claims 19 to 21.

23. (Currently amended) ~~A host cell~~ An isolated host cell comprising the nucleic acid of any one of claims 19 to 21.

24. (Currently amended) A method for producing ~~the BAFF-R glycoprotein a~~ BAFF-R glycoprotein, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) transforming isolated host cells with the vector of claim 22;

(b) culturing the host cells under conditions permitting production of the protein ~~the BAFF-R glycoprotein~~; and

(c) isolating the BAFF-R glycoprotein from the host cells.

25. (Currently amended) A BAFF-R fusion polypeptide comprising:

(a) a first polypeptide comprising ~~an amino sequence substantially as set out from amino acid 13 to amino acid 43 or amino acids 14 to 43 of SEQ ID NO:1~~

(i) amino acids 13 to 43 of SEQ ID NO:1;

(ii) amino acids 14 to 43 of SEQ ID NO:1;

(iii) amino acids 1 to 49 of SEQ ID NO:1;

(iv) amino acids 13 to 49 of SEQ ID NO:1;

(v) amino acids 14 to 49 of SEQ ID NO:1;

(vi) amino acids 1 to 49 of SEQ ID NO:7;

fused to

(b) a second amino acid sequence comprising at least a portion of an immunoglobulin constant region, and optionally

(c) a linker joining the first and the second sequences,
wherein the BAFF-R fusion polypeptide does not include amino acid 50 to amino acid 56 of SEQ ID NO:1.

26. (Original) The BAFF-R fusion polypeptide of claim 25, wherein the linker is proteinaceous.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently amended) The BAFF-R fusion polypeptide of claim 25,
wherein the first polypeptide comprises ~~an amino sequence from amino acid 8 to amino acid 49~~ amino acids 8 to 49 of SEQ ID NO:1.

29. (Currently amended) The BAFF-R fusion polypeptide of claim 25, which comprises ~~an amino acid sequence substantially identical to SEQ ID NO:1~~ from amino acid 13 to amino acid 43 wherein the first polypeptide comprises amino acids 13 to 43 of SEQ ID NO:1.

30. (Currently amended) The BAFF-R fusion polypeptide of claim 25, which comprises ~~an amino acid sequence substantially identical to SEQ ID NO:1~~ from amino acid 14 to amino acid 43 wherein the first polypeptide comprises amino acids 14 to 43 of SEQ ID NO:1.

31. (Currently amended) The BAFF-R fusion polypeptide of claim 25, having at least two amino acids substitutions, wherein the substituted amino acids correspond to amino acid positions 21 and 28 of ~~SEQ ID NO:1~~ A BAFF-R fusion polypeptide

comprising: (a) a first polypeptide comprising amino acids 14 to 43 of SEQ ID NO:1 modified by amino acid substitutions at positions 21 and 28 of SEQ ID NO:1, fused to (b) a second amino acid sequence comprising at least a portion of an immunoglobulin constant region, and optionally (c) a linker joining the first and second sequences, wherein the BAFF-R fusion polypeptide does not include amino acids 50 to 56 of SEQ ID NO:1.

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Original) The BAFF-R fusion polypeptide of claim 25, wherein the first polypeptide comprises amino acid 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, or 19 of SEQ ID NO:1 to amino acid 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, or 49 of SEQ ID NO:1 fused to amino acids 3 to 227 of SEQ ID NO:4.

34. (Original) A nucleic acid encoding a BAFF-R fusion polypeptide of claim 25.

35. (Currently amended) The nucleic acid of claim 34, comprising nucleotides encoding amino acids 1-227 of SEQ ID NO:4 fused to an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) from amino acid 13 to amino acid 43 amino acids 13 to 43 of SEQ ID NO:1;
 - (b) from amino acid 14 to amino acid 43 amino acids 14 to 43 of SEQ ID NO:1;
 - (c) from amino acid 1 to amino acid 49 amino acids 1 to 49 of SEQ ID NO:1;
 - (d) from amino acid 13 to amino acid 49 amino acids 13 to 49 of SEQ ID NO:1;
 - (e) from amino acid 14 to amino acid 49 amino acids 14 to 49 of SEQ ID NO:1;
- or and
- (f) from amino acid 1 to amino acid 49 amino acids 1 to 49 of SEQ ID NO:7.

36. (Original) The nucleic acid of claim 34, comprising (a) nucleotides 1 to 216 of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:3 and (b) nucleotides 7 to 681 of SEQ ID NO:5.

37. (Currently amended) A vector comprising the nucleic acids of any one of claims ~~33-35~~ 34-36.

38. (Currently amended) A host cell comprising the nucleic acid of any one of claims ~~33-35~~ 34-36.

39. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the BAFF-R glycoprotein of claim 1.

40. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the BAFF-R fusion polypeptide of claim 25.

41. (Cancelled)

42. (Currently amended) A method for treating an immunological disorder comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of the pharmaceutical composition ~~as in any one of claims 39-41~~ of claim 39 or claim 40 to a patient in need of treatment, thereby treating the immunological disorder.

43. (Cancelled)

44. (Original) The BAFF-R glycoprotein of claim 1, having an apparent affinity for BAFF in the nanomolar range.

45. (Original) The BAFF-R fusion polypeptide of claim 25, having an apparent affinity for BAFF of at least 10^9 M^{-1} .

46 - 47. (Cancelled)